

FISCAL NOTE

SB 1074 – HB 1456

March 26, 2007

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates the “Ombudsman’s Council for Open Government (OCOG)” as an independent entity of state government. Requires membership of the Tennessee Ethics Commission to also comprise membership of the OCOG. Requires the OCOG to ensure that all departments, agencies, offices, entities, officials and employees of state government are fully informed of, and fully and timely comply with, the letter and intent of laws providing the public the right of access to state government records and meetings. Requires the OCOG to maintain a website and toll-free telephone number.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$372,000 Recurring
\$52,000 One-Time**

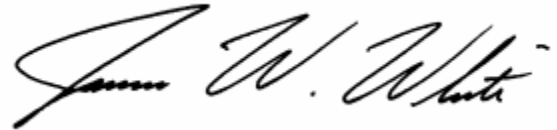
Assumptions:

- For administrative purposes, the OCOG shall be attached to the Office of Secretary of State for all matters relating to receipts, disbursements, expense accounts, budget, audit, and other related items.
- Four employees consisting of one Executive Director, one Open Government Specialist, one Administrative Services Assistant 4, and one Administrative Services Assistant 3.
- Recurring state expenditures for salaries and benefits for four new positions are estimated to be \$291,000 per year.
- Other recurring state expenditures for travel, communications, supplies, insurance, equipment, maintenance, and other various items are estimated to be \$81,000 per year.
- The recurring increase to state expenditures is estimated to be \$372,000 per year ($\$291,000 + \$81,000 = \$372,000$).
- The one-time increase to state expenditures associated with new personnel (supplies and equipment) and other various expenditures (including website) is estimated to be \$52,000.
- According to Finance and Administration, \$100,000 has been included in the FY07-08 Budget Document for one new attorney

position in the Comptroller's Office to serve as an open-records ombudsman.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "White" clearly legible, and "W." in the middle.

James W. White, Executive Director